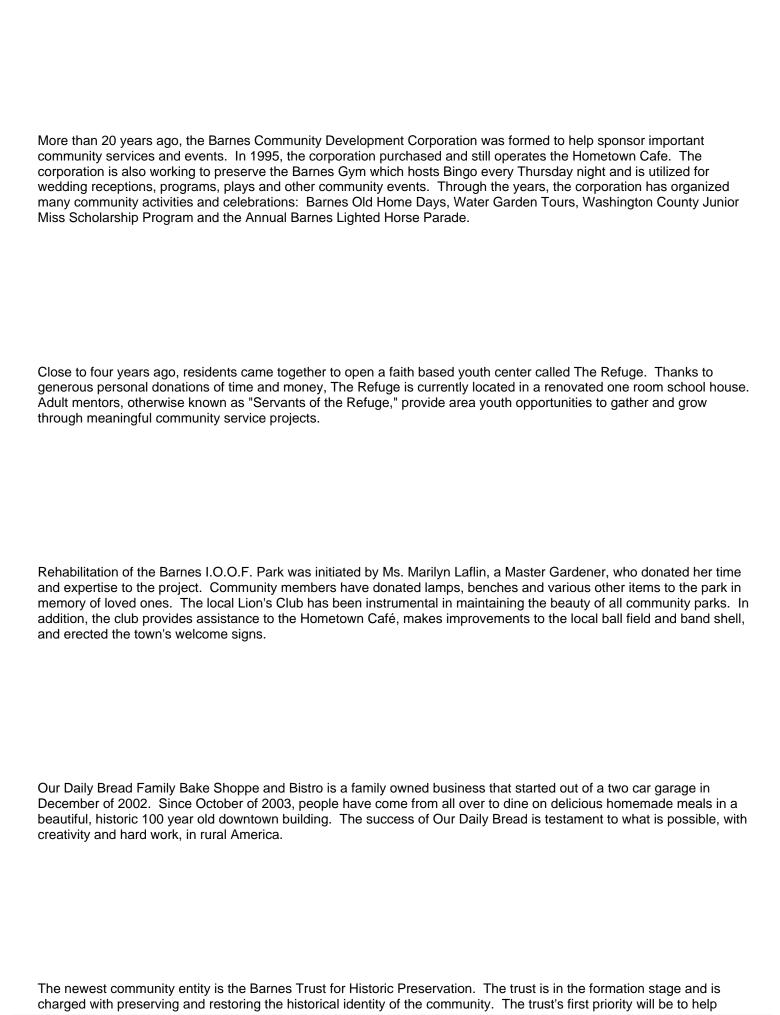
7/14/2006 Recognizing the Community of Barnes, Kansas

Recognizing the Community of Barnes, Kansas
July 14, 2006
Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the citizens of Barnes, Kansas for continuing efforts to sustain and revitalize their community.
Deb Kruse, local bank manager and active civic volunteer, wants to see her hometown raise another generation of
Kansans. "We are very fortunate and blessed to have a community that pulls together to support our businesses and projects that need volunteer or financial assistance, Kruse said. "We have a lot to offernot always a large salarybut caring friends and neighbors."
Despite its small size144 peopleBarnes is bustling with activity.
More than a year ago, the city council started a successful initiative to rehabilitate and demolish old houses. To date, eight homes have been rehabilitated and five old structures have been demolished.
The volunteer fire department is made up of 20 dedicated members. With the assistance of local and federal funding, the department has successfully upgraded its pumper truck, safety equipment, information system and continuing education requirements.

http://www.jerrymoran.house.gov Powered by Joomla! Generated: 26 July, 2006, 17:17



http://www.jerrymoran.house.gov Powered by Joomla! Generated: 26 July, 2006, 17:17

restore the Barnes State Bank.
The city maintains an extensive website that includes a list of 26 entities on its business and organization directory. That list includes three antique shops, three churches, two bed and breakfasts, two automobile repair shops, two building contractors and a plumber.
Gloria Moore, city treasurer, knows it is no accident that so much is taking place in such a small town. "The individuals that have started businesses in Barnes have invested their money and talents to keep our community alive," Moore said. "We could live anywhere in the world but choose to live in a small community, because we're sold on rural Kansas."
For rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. Ongoing efforts to revitalize Barnes are an example of how hard work, vision and community support can create just such an opportunity.
Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Barnes is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

http://www.jerrymoran.house.gov Powered by Joomla! Generated: 26 July, 2006, 17:17